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Around the Nation

Warren Panel Weighed Exhumation of Oswald

FORT WORTH, Tex., Sept. 7 (UPI) — Members of the Warren Commission once considered exhuming the body of Lee Harvey Oswald, the slayer of President Kennedy, according to declassified documents made available to United Press International.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation also considered such an action after the Central Intelligence Agency requested it, a newspaper report said.

Exhumation of the body is being considered at a court hearing that resumes tomorrow. The court proceeding was initiated by Oswald's brother, Robert, who is seeking to stop the exhumation requested by Michael Eddowes, a British author who has asserted that a Soviet agent assumed Oswald's identity after he defected to the Soviet Union in 1959.

Previously classified Government documents showed that the Warren Commission and Federal investigators discussed the possibility of unearthing the body after the assassination of President Kennedy Nov. 22, 1963.

The Dallas Morning News reported today that a Warren Commission memorandum said in March 1964 that J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the F.B.I., was reluctant to exhume the body to comply with a C.I.A. request. Mr. Hoover's memo said the intelligence agency was attempting to determine whether scars on Oswald's left arm, allegedly from a Marine Corps gun accident, had actually resulted from a suicide attempt in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Hoover said the C.I.A. was concerned that if the Marine Corps accident was "a fabrication, the time supposedly spent by Oswald in recovering from the suicide in a Moscow hospital could have been spent by him in Russian secret police custody being coached, brainwashed, etc."